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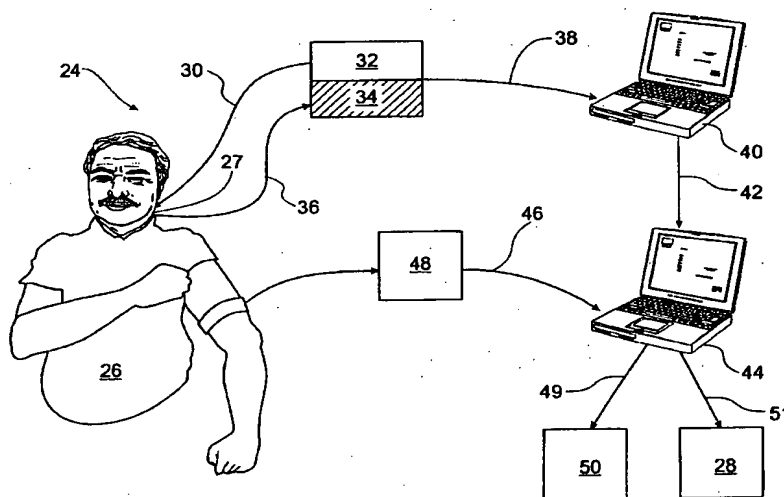
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR EARLY DETECTION OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE USING VASCULAR IMAGING



(57) Abstract: The invention provides an apparatus (10) and method (24) for determining vascular characteristics for early detection of cardiovascular disease comprising: an ultrasonic signal source (32) directing ultrasound signals (30) at an artery (27); an ultrasonic signal receiver (34) receiving ultrasound signals (36) reflected from or transmitted through the artery (27); means for analysing signals (40) received by ultrasonic signal receiver (34) to extract arterial displacement data (42); means for acquiring blood pressure data (48); signal processing means (44) for adjusting said arterial displacement data (46) using the blood pressure data (48); and means for analysing the adjusted arterial displacement data (51) to characterise vascular function (28).

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